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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/820,331

03/27/2001

Charles R. Broadus

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08/28/2006

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EXAMINER

YIMAM, HARUN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/820,331

Applicant(s)

BROADUS, CHARLES R.

Examiner

Harun M. Yimam

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-9, 11-14, 17-19, 21-24, 27-29 and 31-34 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-9, 11-14, 17-19, 21-24, 27-29 and 31-34 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/20/06 & 04/27/06.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Note to Applicant

Art Units 2611, 2614 and 2617 have changed to 2623. Please make all future correspondence indicate the new designation 2623.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/18/2006 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 03/20/2006 and 04/27/2006 have been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 11-14, 17, 18, 21-24, 27-29, 31, and 33 are rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schein (US 6,412,110) in view of (RD 385007A) and further in view of Moir (2001/0010094).

Considering claims 1 and 11, Schein discloses a system and a corresponding method for indicating a completion status of a media program comprising: displaying an electronic program guide (EPG) having first and second axes (channel-based axes and time-based axis respectively in figure 1) and a plurality of elements (Seinfeld, Friends, etc.), the first axis corresponding to a plurality of media providers (NBC, ABC, etc in figure 1), the second axis corresponding to a plurality of time slots (7:00pm, 7:30pm, etc in figure 1) each element corresponding to a media program (see figure 1);

displaying a line (199 in figure 1) indicating a current time across at least a portion of the EPG, wherein the line is perpendicular to the second axis (see figure 1) and bisects an element of the EPG into an elapsed portion and a remaining portion.

Schein fails to disclose generating a separate graph of elapsed time versus running time for a first media program when a portion of the element corresponding to the first media program cannot be displayed within the plurality of time slots currently associated with the second axis, the graph indicating the elapsed proportion of the first media program without reference to the line; and positioning the separate graph upon the corresponding element in the EPG.

In analogous art, RD 385007A discloses generating a separate graph of elapsed time versus running time (see attached figure and lines 4-5 in the abstract) for a first media program, the graph indicating the elapsed proportion of the first media program without reference to the line; and positioning the separate graph upon the corresponding element in the EPG (see attached figure and lines 4-5 in the abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schein's system to include a separate graph of elapsed time versus running time, as taught by RD 385007A, for the benefit of accommodating the viewer to see at a glance how far a program has already progressed (lines 6-7 in the abstract).

Schein and RD 385007A fail to explicitly disclose that the separate graph of elapsed time versus running time for a first media program is generated when a portion

of the element corresponding to the first media program cannot be displayed within the plurality of time slots currently associated with the second axis.

In analogous art, Moir discloses that the graph of elapsed time versus running time for a first media program is generated when a portion of the element corresponding to the first media program cannot be displayed within the plurality of time slots currently associated with the second axis (paragraphs 0005, 0007, 0008, 0010, 0011 and 0020).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined system of Schein and RD 385007A to indicate that a separate graph is generated when a portion of the element corresponding to the first media program cannot be displayed within the plurality of time slots currently associated with the second axis, as taught by Moir, for the benefit of providing a clear indication to the user if a particular program has started previously or does not finish until a later time than that displayed (paragraph 0005).

As for claims 2 and 12, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, Schein discloses a line (199 in figure 1) for bisecting a plurality of elements of the EPG.

With regards to claims 3 and 14, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, Schein discloses that the media program is selected from a television program (figure 1).

Regarding claims 4 and 13, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, Schein teaches that the current time is represented by the location of the status line (column 4, lines 59-61) with respect to the start times of the programs. Therefore, since it is known to all that time is always changing, it is understood that the line moves along the second axis to indicate a change in the current time.

Considering claims 7 and 17, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, RD 385007A discloses a ratio bar graph of elapsed time versus running time (see attached figure and lines 4-5 in the abstract).

As for claims 8 and 18, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, RD 385007A discloses a separate graph comprising an elapsed portion and a remaining portion, the elapsed portion being proportional in size to an elapsed time of a corresponding media program, the remaining portion being proportional in size to a remaining time thereof (see attached figure and lines 4-10 in the abstract).

Considering claim 21, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, Schein discloses a user interface (column 6, lines 64-66) for performing the acts of claims 1 and 11.

As for claim 22, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, Schein discloses a user interface (column 6, lines 64-66) for performing the acts of claims 2 and 12.

With regards to claim 23, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, Schein discloses a user interface (column 6, lines 64-66) for performing the acts of claims 4 and 13.

Regarding claim 24, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, Schein discloses a user interface (column 6, lines 64-66) for performing the acts of claims 3 and 14.

Considering claim 27, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, Schein disclose a user interface (column 6, lines 64-66) for performing the acts of claims 7 and 17.

As for claim 28, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, Schein disclose a user interface (column 6, lines 64-66) for performing the acts of claims 8 and 18.

With regards to claim 29, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, Schein disclose a user interface (column 6, lines 64-66) for performing the acts of claims 9 and 19.

Considering claim 31, Schein discloses a method for indicating a completion status of a media program comprising:

displaying an electronic program guide (EPG) having first and second axes (channel-based axes and time-based axis respectively in figure 1) and a plurality of elements (Seinfeld, Friends, etc.), the first axis corresponding to a plurality of media providers (NBC, ABC, etc in figure 1), the second axis corresponding to a plurality of time slots (7:00pm, 7:30pm, etc in figure 1) each element corresponding to a media program (see figure 1);

Schein fails to disclose generating a separate graph of elapsed time versus running time for a first media program when a portion of the element corresponding to the first media program cannot be displayed within the plurality of time slots currently associated with the second axis, the graph indicating the elapsed proportion of the first media program without reference to the line; and positioning the separate graph upon the corresponding element in the EPG.

In analogous art, RD 385007A discloses generating a separate graph of elapsed time versus running time (see attached figure and lines 4-5 in the abstract) for a first media program, the graph indicating the elapsed proportion of the first media program without reference to the line; and positioning the separate graph upon the corresponding element in the EPG (see attached figure and lines 4-5 in the abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schein's system to include a separate graph of elapsed time versus running time, as taught by RD 385007A, for the benefit of accommodating the viewer to see at a glance how far a program has already progressed (lines 6-7 in the abstract).

Schein and RD 385007A fail to explicitly disclose that the separate graph of elapsed time versus running time for a first media program is generated when a portion of the element corresponding to the first media program cannot be displayed within the plurality of time slots currently associated with the second axis.

In analogous art, Moir discloses that the graph of elapsed time versus running time for a first media program is generated when a portion of the element corresponding to the first media program cannot be displayed within the plurality of time slots currently associated with the second axis (paragraphs 0005, 0007, 0008, 0010, 0011 and 0020).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined system of Schein and RD 385007A to indicate that a separate graph is generated when a portion of the element corresponding to the first media program cannot be displayed within the plurality of time slots currently associated with the second axis, as taught by Moir, for the benefit of providing a clear indication to the user if a particular program has started previously or does not finish until a later time than that displayed (paragraph 0005).

With regards to claim 33, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir meet the claimed limitations. In particular, RD 385007A discloses the graph comprises a ratio bar graph of elapsed time versus running time (see attached figure and lines 4-10 in the abstract).

5. Claims 9, 19, 32, and 34 are rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schein (US 6,412,110) and (RD 385007A) in view of Moir (2001/0010094), as applied to claims 8, 18, and 31 above, and further in view of Ohkura (US 6,347,400).

With regards to claims 9 and 19, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir disclose a separate visual indication of the program status but fail to disclose that the elapsed portion is displayed in a first color and the remaining portion is displayed in a second color.

In analogous art, Ohkura discloses a separate visual indication of the program status wherein the elapsed portion is displayed in a first color (dark/black) and the remaining portion is displayed in a second color (bright/white) (see figures 7 and 8 and column 12, line 63 - column 13, line 12).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined system of Schein, RD 385007A and Moir to include color representations of the elapsed portion and the remaining portion, as taught by Ohkura, for the benefit of providing a clear representation of the program status.

As for claim 32, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir fail to disclose that the graph comprises a pie chart.

In analogous art, Ohkura discloses that the graph comprises a pie chart (column 17, lines 5 - 13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined system of Schein, RD 385007A and Moir to include the graph comprising a pie chart, as taught by Ohkura, for the benefit of providing an alternate representation of the program status.

Regarding claim 34, Schein, RD 385007A and Moir fail to disclose displaying an enlarged version of the graph at a location outside of the program guide in response to a user selection of a corresponding element in the program guide.

In analogous art, Ohkura discloses displaying an enlarged version of the graph at a location outside of the program guide (see figure 7) in response to a user selection of a corresponding element in the program guide (column 12, lines 43-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined system of Schein, RD 385007A and Moir to include an enlarged version of the graph at a location outside of the program guide, as taught by Ohkura, for the benefit of providing a clear representation of the program status.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harun M. Yimam whose telephone number is 571-272-7260. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant can be reached on 571-272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HMY


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